

## **The Building Blocks of Directing Workshop**

45-minute workshop; 10:50a.m-11:35 a.m., Room 417. PAC – Recital Hall

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by

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1. Start with the script
  - a. Can you visualize it in your mind's eye?
  - b. Is the conflict clear and compelling?
  - c. What about it do you love?
  - d. What are the possible pitfalls?
2. What does the world of the play look like and what do you need to *communicate the story* in an interesting way?
  - i. Scenery (entrances/exits)
  - ii. Props
  - iii. Costumes/Makeup/Wigs
  - iv. Sound
3. In rehearsals
  - a. Plan your calendar. Work backwards from opening.
  - b. Set the kind of environment you need.
  - c. You do not have to have all of the answers.
  - d. Have a plan for each rehearsal and respect everyone's time.
4. Blocking the show
  - a. Pre-Blocking or Organic Blocking? Pros and Cons
  - b. Painting with Broad Strokes
    - i. Start with an outline of the staging. Give your actors a map. Landing spots.
    - ii. Use this as an opportunity to convey your point of view of characters while leaving room for the actors to interpret and contribute
5. Some basic tools/checklist of directing
  - a. Variety in staging
    - i. Levels
    - ii. Areas
    - iii. Spatial Relationships
    - iv. Tempo
    - v. Paths
    - vi. Opportunity for stage business
  - b. Variety in acting
    - i. Mood/Tone
    - ii. Complications/Obstacles
    - iii. Tactics
    - iv. Vocality
    - v. Physicality
    - vi. Opportunity for stage business

### Additional Things to Remember:

1. Watch the greats & dissect pick it apart. What do you like? Why?
  - a. Sometimes we learn more from shows we don't like at all
2. Watch pre-recorded live Broadway shows on platforms like: BroadwayHD, Filmed On Stage, Digital Theatre, and MarqueeTV
3. The best & most entertaining theatre is when you put what you love about theatre onstage. Do works that you're in love with! But be honest with yourself. No directorial choice is too precious to be changed or made better.
4. You need to have an opinion about the world of the play and show what you think is important for the audience to know or experience.
5. The rules of theatre ("Don't turn your back to the audience", "Project your voice", etc.) are absolute until they aren't. If the rule doesn't serve the story...BREAK IT.